

Lincoln, Nebraska
May 14, 2004

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, May 14, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Edward C. Birkel
Harold W. Clarke
Allen Curtis
Dr. Aileen Gruendel
The Honorable John P. Icenogle
Joseph P. Kelly
Robert P. Lindemeier
James McKenzie
Senator John Synowiecki
Kenneth J. Vampola
William Burgess
Catherine Cook
The Honorable Karen B. Flowers
Frank E. Goodroe
Julie Hippen
Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chair

Council staff present:

Linda Krutz, Chief
Julie L. Rogers
Julie A. Okray

Others Present:

Barbara Thomas, Assistant Director, HHS MH&SA
Deb Minardi, Chief Probation Officer, District 4
Dave Wagner, Deputy Probation Administrator
Howard Kensinger, Legislative Fiscal Office

Members absent:

Dr. Scot L. Adams

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave an overview of the meeting and process. Attendance is indicated above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 23, 2004, meeting stood approved as presented.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The July 23, 2004 meeting is cancelled. A Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 13th, 2004.

“ACCESS TO RECOVERY” FEDERAL SAMSHA GRANT

Allen Curtis, Executive Director of the Crime Commission, provided information on Nebraska’s application to receive funds through the “Access to Recovery” Federal SAMSHA Grant program. Nebraska’s design to implement the program, if funds were granted, is to provide adult offenders within our criminal justice system with community-based substance abuse assessment, treatment, and recovery support services by building on current initiatives. Barbara Thomas of HHS explained in detail how the grant process will progress. Chairperson Brashear called for a motion to authorize a letter of support from the council for the SAMSHA Grant. The motion was seconded and approved. Linda Krutz provided the letter for Council members signatures.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FEE REPORT SUMMARY

The Community Corrections Fee Report was reviewed and discussed. Suggestions from the April meeting were incorporated. The second “year to date” column will be removed from the report and percentages will be added.

TARGET POPULATION REPORT

The Target Population Report was received, reviewed, and discussed. Felons sentenced to jail will be included as a category in the Report and improvements will be made for the June meeting.

TIMELINE

The Timeline was reviewed and approved with adjustments.

PROBATION & PAROLE SURVEY REPORT

Linda Krutz, chief of the Council, presented the preliminary findings of the Probation & Parole Survey. 272 surveys were sent to probation officers and parole officers and 172 were returned. The returned surveys contained significant handwritten comments. The comments will be available in the final report, and the final report will be in a meaningful format including a geographical breakdown of service availability.

JUDICIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Honorable John P. Icenogle presented and explained a draft copy of the Drug Sentencing Grid from the Judicial Advisory Committee. The color-coded grid identifies ranges of sentencing depending on the criminal history category and the severity level of the crime. The Judicial Advisory Committee will present their final recommendations to the Council at the June meeting.

The Council recessed at 10:25 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

PROBATION FEE EXPENDITURE PROPOSAL

Probation Administrator Ed Birkel and Chief Probation Officer Deb Minardi, with the assistance of Deputy Probation Administrator Dave Wagner, presented "A Framework on implementing What Works and Risk Reduction in Probation Services and Community Corrections." The presentation focused on the eight major principles for effective risk reduction, which included data on felony drug offenders, current and new sentencing options, as well as cost estimates. The Council asked questions of the presenters and further discussed the presentation.

The Council recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

PAROLE FEE EXPENDITURE PROPOSAL

Parole Administrator Jim McKenzie presented a need for 2 intensive parole supervision officers, one each in Lincoln and Omaha, and 1 institutional officer. It was explained that due to rise in parolees over the last few years, as well as a predicted rise in the parole population that additional parole officers will be needed.

FEE EXPENDITURE DISCUSSION

Probation and Parole fee expenditures were discussed. The proposals by Probation and Parole will be considered pending proposals.

REVIEW, DISCUSS & REVISE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PLAN

The Community Corrections Plan (Plan) draft was reviewed and discussed. Suggested changes will be made to the Plan. At the June meeting, the Council will address the remaining topics.

CONCLUDING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Brashear outlined the subject matter for the June meeting: Drug offense sentencing guidelines for felony drug offenses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Council will be held Friday, June 11, 2004, 9:00 a.m., at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Okray

